

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filing Date: November 14, 2003 Examiner: Dunwoody, Aaron M

Title: TUBE JOINT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

The information is in the form of references, which have been cited, in a corresponding Office Action from the German Patent Office, dated September 15, 2004 as a foreign counterpart application to the present application.

A copy of the German Office Action is enclosed, along with eleven (11) references cited therein.

The fact that the references have been cited in the foreign counterpart application satisfies the applicant's requirement for an explanation of relevance concerning these citations, according to MPEP § 609. Accordingly, consideration of all references is both proper and required.

The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

37 CFR 1.97(e) Statement. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Signed,



Paul A. Guss

Date: November 10, 2004

This information is being submitted after receiving a first Office Action, but before receipt of a Final Office Action on the merits. Hence, in accordance with the 37 CFR § 1.97(e) Statement above, no fees are due. Should it be deemed that any fees are due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, authorization is given to charge such fees to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO		Complete If Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	10/706,945
		Filing Date	November 14, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Fukano et al.
		Art Unit	3679
		Examiner Name	A. Dunwoody
		Attorney Docket Number	CS-31-031114
Sheet	1	of	1

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ² "Number" "Kind Code ³ (if known)			
		JP 2001-193876	07-17-2001		
		DE 41 41 309	09-10-1992		
		DE 37 37 062	12-14-1989		
		DE 195 28 195	02-06-1997		
		DE 87 00415.1	04-02-1987		
		DE 73 36 713	01-17-1974		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.88. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Sheet 1 of 1

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Sheet 1 of 1

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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